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Mt. Vernon

AND ITS

Surroundings.

Washington

Some Incidents in the Life of

General

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Some Incidents in the Life of

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CALENDAR.—The Gregorian amendment act of the Italian calendar, was passed by England in 1751, and went into effect September 3, 1752, which day by its provisions was recorded as the 14th, to cancel the difference between the old and new styles, and further transferred the beginning of the new year from March 25 to January 1, beginning in 1753.—*Dictionary.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON.

The family name of Washington is derived from a person originally named William De Hertburn, which was changed in the 13th century to that of his manor called Washington, in Durham, England. Their pedigree dates from Odin, B. C. 70, involving a period of eighteen centuries, including to General Washington fifty-five generations, and contains some illustrious names. His mother was from an ancient and very distinguished family also. The episode about the cherry tree took place at Wakefield, and here the garden was laid out with his name made in different colors of flowers. He early developed a roving disposition and fondness for out-door life and sports. Some of the many things he did out of the ordinary before he was thirteen, were throwing a stone across the Rappahannock river; breaking in a blooded colt, which dropped dead; also climbing up and cutting his name above the rest on the side of the Natural Bridge, Va. He rapidly took his place among the men in sports and hunting, and although silent in his manner, there was a pleasing something in his face which made him a general favorite. Lord Fairfax helped much to shape his earlier talents. The only time he was ever out of the country was when he accompanied his brother Lawrence to the Barbadoe Islands for six months for their health.

Mary Ball, Washington's mother, was the daughter of Col. Joseph Ball of Epping Forest, Va., of which she was called the Belle, and was the only child of his second wife, Widow Johnson. She grew to womanhood surrounded by all the comforts and luxuries that the then earlier times afforded. Among her company was Augustine Washington, a neighbor, and to whom she took a fancy, subsequently marrying him. After their

marriage they went to Wakefield on the Potomac river, where George was born. The house caught fire three years after from a bonfire started to burn up the leaves, and was raised to the ground, the cradle being among the things saved.

Mary Ball had six children of which George was the eldest. After the fire they moved to another plantation on the Rappahannock river, opposite Fredericksburg. Here George Washington spent his childhood days, learning to read, write and cipher at a small school kept by the sexton, Hobby.

A large stone with the following inscription is all at Wakefield that marks his birthplace, which reads: "Here the 11th of February, 1732, George Washington was born."

Augustine Washington, George's half-brother by the first wife, lived at Bridges Creek and here he made his home, going to school to Mr. Williams until he was nearly sixteen years old. His other half-brother, Lawrence, went to England for his education, upon returning was sent to the West Indies. He soon returned, married Annie Fairfax, and went to live upon a large tract of land owned by him near Hunting Creek, to which he gave the name of Mt. Vernon, after Admiral Vernon of England, under whom he served in the navy.

Lawrence Washington built the first house at Mt. Vernon, two stories high with a porch running along the front, high above the Potomac river, facing the Maryland fields and woods. A few miles below Mt. Vernon lived William Fairfax, whose daughter, Lawrence Washington married. Their nearness to Mt. Vernon, made the visits of George Washington frequent, and he partly made his home there. Here he met George William Fairfax who was six years older, and also Lord Thomas Fairfax who was at that time staying at

Belvoir. Fairfax's mother had an immense property in Virginia, nearly one-fifth of the State, which King Charles the Second, had given her, he came to this country to settle it up, appointing William Fairfax his agent.

Neither did Lord Fairfax or his cousin William know the bounds or extents of his lands, beyond the Blue Ridge mountains, and he therefore determined to have his property surveyed, and gave the commission to George Washington who had just passed his sixteenth birthday. George Washington and George William Fairfax set out accompanied by John Gist in March 1748, and after five weeks in the wilderness crossed the Blue Ridge at Ashby's Gap, entering the Shenandoah Valley about twelve miles south of Winchester, where Lord Fairfax had his home, the famous Greenway Court.

It was this commission from Fairfax to survey his lands which made the beginning of Washington's public life, and soon after brought him an appointment from Governor Dinwiddie as public surveyor. For three years he followed this pursuit and laid out large tracts of land up and down the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. Meanwhile, he had his home at several places. He often went to see his mother at Fredericksburg; lived with his brother Lawrence at Mt. Vernon; was always a welcome visitor at Belvoir; and when in the upper country spent his time with Fairfax.

At this time, the country to the westward was a wilderness, known as the Ohio Valley. Washington determined some time to get a look into this section. In 1748 Thomas Lee formed the Ohio Company with Augustine and Lawrence Washington and others, their object being to establish trade between Maryland, Virginia and the Ohio.

Virginia was then divided into military districts and Washington was made adjutant-general for the district which included Mt. Vernon, showing himself so capable that he was again appointed with the rank of major. In September 1751 he accompanied Lawrence to the West Indies, who shortly after died, making George executor of his estate.

The French and Indians gave the Ohio Company considerable trouble and in October 1753 Washington was sent to pacify them. 1754 he was made lieutenant-colonel and marched against the enemy under Colonel Fry, who dying in July, he took his place as commander, overwhelming the hostiles at Fort Necessity and Great Meadows, after which he returned to Mt. Vernon. 1755 war again broke out and he accompanied General Braddock, who being killed, Washington was given command of the army, pushing the war to victory. 1758 he retired from the army, seventeen years before the War of Independence.

June 6, 1759 he married Mrs. Martha Custis, retiring to Mt. Vernon until 1774, when he was sent to the first Congress in Philadelphia. April 1775, the battles of Lexington and Concord having been fought, it became necessary to have a military commander, Washington was given the position; two days before the famous battle of Bunker Hill.

Next to Mt. Vernon in interest is Newburgh-on-the-Hudson, N. Y., where General Washington had his Headquarters during the Revolutionary period. Here he formulated many of his plans, which made not only himself famous in history, but added, Lafayette, Steuben, Wayne, Putnam, Rochambeau, Greene and others. Also at the Valley Forge Headquarters occurred some of the memorable incidents of the War of Independence.

Mt. Vernon the home of General Washington, is in Fairfax County, Va., on the Potomac river, 17 miles south of Washington city. The Mansion building of which, is two stories and attic high, 96 feet long, and 30 feet wide. The foundation was started by Augustine Washington, the General's father, in 1736, and finished by his son Lawrence in 1743. The land originally belonged to Colonel John Washington and Colonel Nicholas Spencer, and was but little improved until the year 1690, when by an order of the court of Stafford, John Washington and George Brent were commissioned to divide it between Lawrence Washington and the Spencer heirs. This division was made so that each should have half of the river boundary, and half of the back line, so that one creek would belong to one share, and the other creek to the other. The part next to Epsewasson creek fell to the Spencers, and the part next to Little Hunting Creek fell to Lawrence Washington, who dying soon after, left his share of 2500 acres to his child Mildred, who married Rodger Gregory. and they in 1726 deeded the property to Captain Augustine Washington, the General's father, who was a sea-

faring man, and in 1725 owned a ship carrying iron from this country to England and bringing back convicts as settlers. In 1734 or 35, he came up from Westmoreland to make improvements in the upper Potomac grant, bringing his family of five children, the sixth one Mildred, was born at the new place. He settled at Doeg Bay, on Epsewasson creek, constructing a grist and saw mill, with a nearby dwelling, and here the youthful George, the hope afterwards of unborn millions, passed several years of his life, until his father built the middle and original part of Mt. Vernon.

Lawrence Washington died July 26, 1752, at the age of 34. He married a Fairfax, and his picture is in the Mansion; his remains are among those in the family vault. His widow was well provided for with lands, and afterward married Col George Lee, uncle of Arthur and Richard Henry Lee of Revolutionary fame. By Lawrence's will, the Mt. Vernon estate was devised to his daughter Sarah, with the provision that if she should die without issue, it was to become the property of her nephew George, which so transpired. She survived her father but a short while, and he came into full possession of it and its twenty-five hundred acres of land, before he was twenty-one years of age.

Owing to Washington's military operations with the colonists against the French and Indians on the Ohio frontier at that time, he was compelled to be absent from Mt. Vernon during the most of seven years. After the fall of Fort Duquesne and defeat of the combined enemies, the hostilities ceased, and he returned. Soon afterwards, Jan. 6, 1759, at the age of twenty-seven, he married Mrs. Martha Custis, the widow of Daniel Parke Custis.

Lawrence Washington was a man of correct habits and good business qualifications, and with

his brother Augustine was among the organizers of the "Ohio Company," to encourage trade with the Indians, explore the new Western country and open up to settlements. He was never very strong physically, and in 1751 he went to the Barbadoes for his health, returning, and died at Mt. Vernon.

The first structure at Mt. Vernon, which was only the middle part, as we see it now, was plain and simple, with only four rooms. Between then and 1786, the Mansion took on about its present appearance. General Washington sent to England for material and workmen, making the improvements, of which he was his own architect. The interior of the house was unchanged, wings were added to the exterior, and the remodelling was completed. The elevation of the building is 124 feet above tide water; built of the most substantial frame-work, the weather covering cut in like imitation of stone. The piazza is fifteen feet deep, extending along the entire eastern or river front, supported by square columns twenty-five feet in height, over which is a light balustrade, and in the center of the roof is an observatory and spire. There are seven high domer windows, three on the eastern side, one on each end, and two on the western or lawn side.

The ground floor contains six rooms, with the old spacious hall in the center of the building, extending through it from east to west, and the stairway. On the south side of the hall was the parlor, library, and breakfast room, from which a narrow stairway led to the study on the second floor. In this parlor, is one of the famous mantlepieces sent to Washington by Lafayette, upon his return to France. The other being in "Harewood," built by Samuel Washington, at Charlestown, W. Va.

On the north side is the music room, parlor, and

dancing room, in which, when there was much company, they were oftentimes entertained at table. The principal feature of this room was the large mantelpiece from Italy, made of statuary and Sienite marbles, presented in 1785 to the General, by Samuel Vaughen, of London, having upon its freize, sculptured with a masterly hand in bas-relief, prominent objects of agriculture and husbandry; presenting a beautiful, gay, and graceful appearance. The interior of the new rooms were finished to correspond with the old ones, and near the Mansion connected by wide colonades on either side, was a substantial kitchen and laundry, which with other outlying buildings are still preserved. Exact plans and dimensions of the Mansion have been made, and are kept in case of destruction.

The Mansion on the west front has a very extensive lawn, surrounded by serpentine walks, their borders skirted in symmetry and beauty with the choiest forest trees, which were transplanted from the woods on the estate, with evergreens, flowering shrubs, and plants, all selected and cared for by Washington. South of the lawn, and a considerable distance from the left wing of the house, is the vegetable garden, opposite to which, on the north of the lawn, about the same distance from the right wing, are gardens and a conservatory for ornamental shrubs, plants and flowers, which contain many valuable species gathered from different parts of the world by Washington, horticulture being one of his favorite pursuits. Also on the south front were located the houses for the working people, seed and tool houses, and stables.

At the time of Washington's marriage, hardly one-fourth of his land was under cultivation, and only along the water courses had clearings been made, original growth of oaks and walnuts cov-

ered the rest He with abundant means and opportunities at his command, gave to everything his practical and progressive ideas. He not only enlarged the dwelling place, but extended the limits of the estate by purchasing the other 2500 acres of the Spencer tract, and more adjoining properties, including Clifton Neck and its 2000 acres, until his domain included over 8000 acres, with ten miles of river fronting. Washington made many improvements in farm arrangements and crop cultivation, which demonstrated to all who witnessed the fine results, that he was a sensible and thrifty farmer. He drained the grounds, adopted the plan of rotating crops, procured the best agricultural tools, planted and sowed the best seeds, erected comfortable shelters for his overseers and hands, had his home smithy and wagon shops for the repair of all tools, carts and wagons; his carpenters for building and repairing the buildings and fences; had his grist-mill, his huntsman for wild game, and his fisherman for supplying everybody on the premises with fish of the finest catch of the river.

Washington had an inventive turn of mind, and was always devising some new method for lessen-

ing the labor on his estate, and improved many of the implements then in use. He built a circular or six-sided barn, of brick and frame, sixty feet in diameter, two stories high, which was a marvel for those days. The threshing-out floor was in the second story, the oxen and horses were taken up an inclined plane. The floor was of open slats, so that the grain might fall through to the floor below. He afterwards constructed a device that was worked by horse-power, in which the heads of the wheat-sheaves were held on a rapidly revolving table and the grain beaten out. This was probably one of the first steps towards the power thresher which has reached the success of today.

Washington's coach was made in England, in 1789, the body and wheels were cream color, with gilt relief, which was then very fashionable, and was suspended upon the old-fashioned heavy, leather straps, like those of the bygone stage coaches. The sides and front were shaded by green Venetian blinds, enclosed by black leather, and the Washington arms with the characteristic motto, were painted upon the doors—The result proves actions—"Exitus, acta probat." Upon each of the four panels of the coach was a picture of the four seasons. Usually, the General drove only four horses, but on going from Mt. Vernon to the seat of Government, at Philadelphia or New York, or when he and Mrs. Washington paid an occasional visit to Annapolis, to partake of the gaiety which prevailed there during the session of the legislature, he drove six horses.

Daily about sunrise General Washington invariably visited and inspected his stables, for he was very fond of horses, and his equipments were always of a superior order. The horses which he rode in the war of Independence, were said to have

been superb. The charger which bore him in the greatest of his triumphs, the battle of Yorktown, Va. when he received the sword of the vanquished Lord Cornwallis, on the memorable 19th of October, 1781, was a chestnut one, with white face and legs, and named Nelson, after the patriotic governor of Virginia. After the battle, Washington relinquished its back, and it was never mounted again, but cropped the herbage in summer, was housed and well cared for in winter, often caressed by visitors and others, and died of old age at Mt. Vernon, many years after the Revolution.

His library, and visit to the stables, occupied the morning until the hour of breakfast, which meal was without change to him, Indian cakes and honey, and tea, forming this simple repast. On arising from table if there were guests, books and papers were offered them for their amusement, they were requested to take good care of themselves, and the illustrious farmer Washington, proceeded on the daily tour of his agricultural concerns. He rode upon his farms entirely unattended, opening the gates, pulling down and putting up the fences as he passed, visiting his laborers at their work, inspecting all the operations of his extensive agricultural establishments with a careful eye, directing new improvements, and superintending them in their progress. The tour of the farms would average from ten to twenty miles per day.

Col. Meade, one of his aide-de-camps in the war of the Revolution, afterwards called at the Mansion House to see him, and was told he had gone to visit his estate, describing him "as an old gentleman riding alone, in plain drab clothes, a broad brimmed white hat, a hickory switch in his hand, and carrying an umbrella with a long staff, which is attached to his saddle-bow—that personage, sir,

is General Washington." The stranger laughingly remarked, "that if he fell in with the General, he would be rather apt to know him." They met all right, and Col. Meade dined at Mt. Vernon. This umbrella was used by him to protect his face from the rays of the sun, his complexion being fair.

He returned from his ride, at a quarter to three, dressed and took his dinner, at which meal he ate plentifully, not being so particular in his diet. He was fond of fish, and usually ate heartily of that dish, partook sparingly of dessert, drank a home-made beverage, and several glasses of Maderia wine. With old-fashioned courtesy he drank to the health of every person present, and gave his only toast, "all our friends." The afternoon was usually devoted to the library, and at night he would join his family and friends at the tea-table, took no supper, and regularly at nine he retired. When there was no company, he frequently read to his family extracts from publications of the day; on Sunday, sermons and other sacred writings. In winter when the weather prevented him taking his usual exercise, he was in the habit of walking for an hour on the portico, before retiring to rest. As the eastern portico is more than ninety feet in length, this walk would comprise several miles. Thus, in the varied routine of useful industry, and temperate enjoyments, sped the latter days of General Washington, resting from his mighty labors, amid the quiet and retirement of Mt. Vernon. He was partial to children, their playfulness appeared to please him, and many are the parents who rejoiced that his hands had touched their offspring. Washington was always a strict and decorous observer of the Sabbath, and invariably attended at divine service once a day, when within reach of a place of worship, and he gave liberally to religion,

This picture of the Epsewasson mill, was made from a drawing of long ago, and in its day was provided with the best machinery that could be obtained, for in it was ground all the flour and meal for the surrounding neighborhood, as well as for the five large plantations of the Mt. Vernon estate, and stood until about the beginning of 1850. The long race-way which led the water from the pond far up the valley, and acoss the fields, to turn the wheels is now a grazing ground. The great nether stone of the mill, is the bottom of a pair of steps to the door of a nearby farm house. The stream were the youthful George angled and took his first lesson in swimming, has been filled by the alluvian from the near hills and is no more. This place was one of the last visited by General Washington on the day previous to his sudden death, and is two miles from old Belvoir; the home of the Fairfaxes; one mile from Woodlawn, Nellie Custis's home; and half a mile from the turnpike leading from Alexandria to Accotink, which was called the King's Highway, and ran from Williamsburg the ancient capital of Virginia, to Harper's Ferry and the Shenandoah, over which the celebrated

General Daniel Morgan of Occoquan, then a boy, used to haul iron ore for Washington's father.

Early in April 1789, a wearied messenger arrived in haste at the gates of Mt. Vernon, it was the venerable Charles Thompson, secretary to the Continental Congress, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who had been commissioned by the new Congress to announce to General Washington, that he had been chosen to the first Presidency of the United States, and for which Thompson had ridden from New York city, two hundred and sixty miles distant, partly in stage coaches and partly on horseback, over a highway abounding in ferries and fording places, much of it very rugged and difficult of passage. Washington's presence being urgently desired, he set about arranging his domestic affairs at Mt. Vernon, making a final tour of his large estates, and giving all needed directions to his overlookers.

The filial disposition and duty to his mother was a strong characteristic of Washington, and he did not forget her, who had ever been kind and affectionate to him, and who had proven so influential in shaping his young inclinations, he having been so early bereft of the care and parental guidance of his father. She was living near Fredericksburg, fifty miles distant, and was aged and infirm, and it might be the last opportunity for him to see her alive. He decided to go there first, so mounting his fleetest horse, accompanied by a servant, started along the pike, leaving Accotink, through the gullied ways and winding courses, that were rough and vexatious, along which fifty odd years before, when a small boy four or five years of age, with his parents, his little sister Betty, and his younger brother Samuel, they came up in the family carriage from the old homestead in Westmore-

land, to the new home at Epsewasson. Over the same road thirty years before, he had ridden in coach and four from Williamsburg with his bride, the widow Custis, to their new home at Mt. Vernon.

Through the chill and lonely hours of the night, did Washington ride with the one great and controlling purpose of seeing his mother. At Colchester, eight miles away, he stopped for refreshments at the "Arms of Fairfax," when he again mounted his horse and rode to the banks of the Occoquan, where the ferryman made haste to carry him over the swiftly flowing stream, and bid him good speed over the hills and valleys of old Prince William. He left behind him the highlands of Occoquan and its falls and cascades, crossing the waters of the Neabsco, Quantico, Acquia and Potomac creeks, into the sandy soil of Stafford and Spottsylvania counties, where for thirty years he had been prominently connected with their affairs, and had for a long time been their representative in the Virginia Assembly. He had also been a member of the Continental Congress, had been commander-in-chief of the victorious armies of the Revolution, and now was to be the first President.

The road he was upon was historic, and over it in 1676 the armed rangers of the Bacon Rebellion, under the lead of his great grandfather, Col. John Washington, had hurried to the scene of bloodshed at Assomeek and Piscataway. In 1716 over this path had ridden the Knights of the Golden Horse Shoe, under the gallant Spottswood, to open a way for the white man through the Alleghenies to the great West. Later in 1740, Virginia's contingent of Provincials passed over it to join the forces of Admiral Vernon, to fight the Spaniards at Carthagenia. Again in 1755, passed more Virginia troops on their way with General Braddock, to fight the

French and Indians on the banks of the Ohio; and in 1781 it was gay and noisy with the Continental soldiers going to and from the battle of Yorktown.

Before early dawn, Washington had finished his journey, and damp with the night air was standing at the gate of his mother's house, on the borders of the Rappahannock. He had come unheralded and unannounced. After exchanging first greetings, he told his mother the people of the Republic had chosen him for their chief magistrate, and before he assumed that office he had come to her for an affectionate farewell, and to ask her blessing. "She told him to go and fulfill the destiny which it appeared Heaven had intended for him." Washington was deeply moved, his head resting upon the shoulder of his parent, whose aged arm affectionately encircled his neck. He wept! A thousand recollections crowded upon his mind as memory retaining scenes long passed, carried him back to his early home, where he first beheld that mother whose care, education and discipline had enabled him to reach the topmost height of laudable ambition. She died soon after, August, 1789.

The old road was not only the one of Colonial days, but in long after time was the great thoroughfare of all the southern travel, and in those days it was not so easy a matter as now, for the traveler to get about. On this same highway General Sherman in 1865, led his army back to the National Capital from "Atlanta to the Sea"

There were a number of ferries across the upper Potomac, more or less noted, the first one being at Nominy in Westmoreland; as well as at Occoquan, and Marshall Hall across from Mt. Vernon. Fox's ferry, across from Alexandria, where some of the General's relatives lived; and the old Clifton ferry, six miles below the city of Washington.

RELICS AT MT. VERNON.

There are many things of note and some highly esteemed relics in the House, among them the ancient map of Virginia, representing the territory between the Atlantic Ocean and the Ohio river, with penciled traces and marks from Washington's own hand, designing the route he traveled during Braddock's campaign against the French and Indians. The big key of the Bastile is here, enclosed in a glass case, and was sent by Lafayette from France, to General Washington, soon after the destruction of the prison. In the banquet hall the central ornament is a fine mantelpiece carved by the Italian sculptor, Canova, with an immense grate underneath with a capacity for a large pile of fuel. The hearth is of white marble inlaid with ornaments of polished maroon colored tiles. The dark blue vases upon the mantel covered with paintings of flowers, and the bronze candelabra on each end occupy the same place as of long ago. Over the door of the library, upon a bracket, is a model bust of the General, taken from life by M. Houdon, a French sculptor, who visited Mt. Vernon in October 1785, and spent three weeks procuring what is admitted to be without doubt the best likeness extant of General Washington.

The room in which Washington died is the south bedroom, and the furniture is the same as that which was used by him. The bedstead is the one upon which he died, and the chair upon which lay the open Bible that his wife was reading to him from, is here too. In this room is a large chair and toilet case that belonged to Washington's mother. The room of Mrs. Washington was in the attic, and overlooked the grave of her husband from its dormer window, and where she died May 2, 1801.

Nellie Custis's room is quaintly furnished with antique belongings, and contains a washstand and chair from the home of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, whose son was one of her admirers; and on the mantel is an autograph letter from her husband, Lawrence Lewis. There is also the room which the Marquis Lafayette occupied, when he was a guest, and it now contains a number of valuable pictures, among them a portrait of Martha Washington, as the bride of Mt. Vernon. A walnut stand, made from a tree on the estate of Robert Morris; and an embroidered fruit piece in fine needlework of the days of the Revolution.

The river room has a chair, which came to this country in the Mayflower; also a bedstead used by Washington in Pennsylvania, in 1777. In the green room, is the bedstead upon which John P. Custis died from camp fever, at Eltham; and on one of the window panes, cut with a diamond, is the name, Eliza P. Custis, August 2, 1792. These rooms including hallways, have been assigned to the particular care of the various vice Regents of the several States, and have been furnished by them in most cases. In the kitchen, the old crane still hangs in the great fireplace, and the brick oven is well preserved. The old hominy mortar is in the Superintendent's office. The sun dial on the west lawn, was erected by the citizens of Rhode Island in 1888, to replace the old one of long ago.

Among other valuables is a card table used by Washington and Lafayette for whist. A silver heel worn by Martha Washington, and a lock of her hair; also a lock of the General's hair. A footbench from their old pew in Trinity Church, N. Y. A brick from Faunces' Tavern, where Washington read his "immortal farewell" to his officers. And a point lace collar last worn by Mrs. Washington.

Washington's tomb is one hundred yards west of the old vault, and three hundred southwest of the Mansion, situated on a lovely hillside, and though not seen from the river, is brought suddenly into full view, as one ascends the hill from the landing, where the steamer George McAllister leaves its visitors from Washington city. His remains and those of his wife lie in a marble sarcophagi, the two occupying an antechamber, one on the right side, and the other on the left, and are visible from the outer gate. The antechamber is covered with a metallic roof, and its walls, built of brick and elevated to the height of twelve feet, are so extended in the rear as to environ the new vault on all sides. Its front is surrounded by a stone coping, pierced by a grating, over which is a plain slab, with the following wording: "Within this enclosure rest the remains of General George Washington." He died December 14, 1799.

The construction of the sarcophagi is of the modern form, and is made from a solid block of marble, eight feet in length, three feet in width, and two feet high, resting on a plinth, which projects four inches around the base of the coffin. The stone covering is a ponderous block of Italian

marble, emblazoned with the arms and insignia of the United States, beautifully sculptured in the boldest relief. The design occupies a large portion of the top or lid, and represents a shield divided into thirteen perpendicular stripes, which rests on the flag of our country, and is attached by cords to a spear, embellished with tassels, forming a background to the shield, by which it is supported. The crest is an eagle with open wings, perching upon a superior bar of the shield, in the act of clutching the arrows and olive branch. Between these and the foot of the coffin, upon the plain field of the lid, is the name, Washington. On the other sarcophagus is inscribed, "Martha, consort of Washington, died May 21, 1801, aged 71 years.

Within the vault rest forty members of the Washington, Custis and related families. Near the enclosure are four monuments to the memory of Judge Bushrod Washington who inherited Mt. Vernon; his nephew John A. Washington, his successor; Eleanor P. Lewis, who was Nellie Custis, and her daughter Mrs. M. E. H. Conrad. The remains of General Washington were placed in the marble sarcophagus and sealed from sight the last time on October 7, 1837, and since then have never been disturbed. There are two rooms in the second story of the rotunda of the United States Capitol building, which were intended to be used for the bodies of General Washington and his wife, but to this he objected, and his will read as follows:

"The family vault at Mt. Vernon requiring repairs and being improperly situated, I desire that a new one be built of brick, and upon a larger scale, at the foot of what is called the Vineyard Inclosure, on the ground which is marked out—in which my remains, with those of my family as may choose to be entombed there, may be depos-

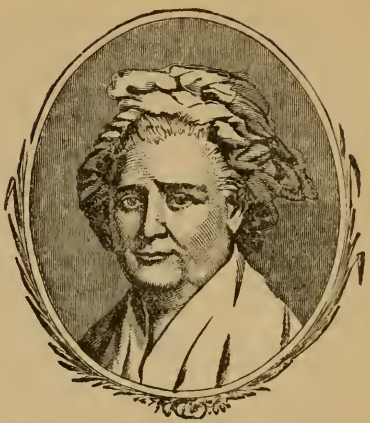
ited—and it is my express desire that my corpse may be interred in a private manner, without parade or funeral orations." His fellow citizens could not be dissuaded from going contrary to his wish, and assembled in great numbers to pay their last tribute of respect. The arrangements for the funeral were made for 12 o'clock Wednesday, December 18, but as some of the persons from a distance failed to arrive, the hour was postponed, and between two and three o'clock a gun was heard from a vessel near the shore, in token that the funeral was in readiness to start. The procession moved out through the gate, around the east front of the Mansion, down the lawn, to the old family vault, in the following order: Cavalry, infantry, and guard, with arms reversed; music, and five gentlemen of the clergy. The General's horse with his saddle, holsters and pistols, led by two grooms. Colonel Blackburn preceding the corpse. There were a number of his family as mourners, also Dr. Craik, his physician; and his secretary, Tobias Lear, together with Lord Fairfax and Fernando Fairfax; Lodge No. 23 of Free Masons; Corporation of Alexandria, followed by the people of his home, Mt. Vernon, and citizens.

As soon as the procession neared the tomb, the cavalry halted and formed into line, as also the infantry, after which the clergy, masonic brethren, and relatives descended to the vault. Mr. Davis read the funeral services and made a short address, after which the masonic brethren performed their cermonies and deposited the corpse in the arch. A general discharge of guns from the boats which lined the river closed the scene. An English gunboat fired a salute in respect to the memory of the illustrious name and deeds of Washington. The sudden news of his death can better be con-

ceived than expressed. At first a general disorder prevailed, which soon gave place to sensations of the most poignant sorrow and extreme regret. Stores were closed and all business suspended, as if each family had lost its father. Bells tolled continuously, and on Wednesday the people flocked to Mt. Vernon. Until the time of interment the corpse was placed on the portico fronting the river, so that every one might have a farewell view.

The Mt. Vernon Ladies Association of the Union, having for its object the restoration of the Mansion and grounds, was incorporated by the Legislature of Virginia in 1856, and the work of obtaining necessary funds was earnestly begun. Miss Pamela Cunningham, of South Carolina, and who had charge of the work was first regent and manager, and she appointed a vice-regent for every State of the Union as her assistant. These ladies bought the estate with two hundred acres of land, for $200,000 from John Augustine Washington, the grand nephew of Judge Bushrod Washington, who fell heir to the property upon the death of Martha Washington. This John Augustine, afterwards moved to Fauquier, purchasing a farm known as Wareland. At the outbreak of the war in 1861 he was killed in the first skirmish. His two sons were the only children ever born in the Mansion.

Judge Edward Everett of Massachusetts, a distinguished statesman, became interested and traveled about the country at his own expense, delivering his lecture upon the sublime character of Washington, which he orated nearly one hundred and fifty times in different places. Within two years he raised fifty thousand dollars, which he afterwards doubled, receiving from the proprietor of the New York Ledger $10,000 for contributing to that paper an article every week for one year.



During Washington's absence from Mt. Vernon when in command of the armies of the Revolution, Mrs. Washington was often with him. And while at Valley Forge she ministered faithfully to the sick and wounded soldiers.

Mrs. Washington, Martha Dandridge, was born June 21, 1731, and was the daughter of Col. John Dandridge, a noted lawyer who lived on the Pamunkey river. She was a pretty girl, a little below the usual height, with dark eyes, fair complexion, and brown hair. She played on the spinet, was sprightly and winning in her manners, and always dressed very fashionably. She attended the balls or assemblies as they were called, in Williamsburg and was the belle of the little capital. One of her lovers was Daniel Parke Custis, a man of over thirty and the son and heir of a very rich father, Col. John Custis of Williamsburg, who wished him to marry his cousin Evelyn Bird, who was four years older and a very lovely woman, the descendant of a highly connected family. Daniel Parke Custis refused to marry Miss Bird, and the father in his anger willed all his property to a little negro pet, named Jack. The old gentleman finally relented and in the course of time gave his consent to his son marrying little Patsy Dandridge. They

were married in July 1749, less than three weeks after, being in haste, fearing the old gentleman would change his mind. They lived very happily together for seven years, having four children, two of them dying young. Custis died 1756, leaving Martha a young widow with a large fortune, equally divided between her and the two children, John Parke and Martha · Martha died when she was nineteen, at Mt. Vernon, and John Parke grew to manhood, and was an aide-de-camp to Washington at the battle of Yorktown, where he caught the camp fever, and died at Eltham, his home.

Martha had been a widow about one year when she met Colonel Washington, who was on some provincial business upon his way to Williamsburg, when on crossing the Pamunkey river he met Mr. Chamberlain who invited him to take dinner with him. Washington accepted, and among other company was introduced to the widow Custis. They fell in love at first sight, and it was next morning before he was on his journey again. He visited her only four times during their courtship, the reason for this being, he was carrying on a campaign against the Indians on the frontier, that he was eager to finish. In September he began his attack upon Fort Duquesne, where his troops were beaten back with terrible loss. He again rallied his forces and captured the fort, leaving two hundred men to garrison it. By the close of the year the French had given up the struggle, and the Indians becoming quieted, Washington resigned his commission, and on January 6, 1758, he married Mrs. Custis, and for the next sixteen years his life passed quietly and contentedly at Mt. Vernon. They were married at the White House on the Pamunkey river, two ministers officiating; one was Mr. Warner, the rector of St. Peter's Church,

MRS. MARTHA CUSTIS AND HER FAMILY.

on the York river; and the other one the Rev. Mr. Munson, a clergyman sent out by the Bishop of London to look over the diocese in the colony of Virginia. Her son John was then six years old, and her daughter Martha, only four years. Washington had no children of his own, but was very fond of his wife's son and daughter. They had some difficulty in the education of John, especially after the death of his sister, as Mrs. Washington was inclined to indulge him too much. When he died, Washington threw himself full length upon a couch, and wept like a child over his unexpected demise. John Custis left a widow and four children, two of whom, were brought up by Washington as his own, at Mt. Vernon. These were Eleanor, "Nellie," aged two and a half years, and George W. Parke, called "Tut," aged six months; and they took the place of their father and his sister.

At the Washington wedding there was a very fashionable party assembled, including the Governor of Virginia, in scarlet cloth embroidered in gold, with dress sword. Some English army and

navy officers, and a member of the Virginia Assembly. Washington wore a suit of blue cloth, the coat lined with red silk, an embroidered white satin waistcoat, shoe and knee buckles of gold, a sword and powdered hair. The bride wore a petticoat of white quilted satin, with an overdress of white corded silk interwoven with silver threads, high-heeled white satin shoes, diamond buckles, point-lace ruffles, pearl ear-rings, bracelets, necklace, and pearls in her hair. One of the most striking persons in appearance is said to have been Bishop, Washington's mulatto body servant, who came to this country with General Braddock, and upon his death at Mountain Meadows, a short time before, enlisted with Washington. Bishop was dressed in the scarlet uniform of a British soldier, standing on the porch holding the bridegroom's handsome horse. He died after at Mt. Vernon.

Washington's wedded life was in every respect felicitous, and for forty years from the time of his marriage, to the day of his death, he wore his wife's minature, (painted by the celebrated artist C. W. Peale) about his neck, next his breast.

In July of 1799, only a few months previous to Washington's death, he made his last will, which was noted for brevity and clearness of language. This interesting document is still preserved in the clerk's office of Fairfax county, and is written in his usual careful and legible style. To his wife, Martha, he gave all his estate, real and personal for the term of her natural life. Upon her death, May 22, 1802, his estate left by her, was divided among his many relatives, and to public institutions of learning, and charities. The executors of his will were Martha Washington, John Augustine Washington, Bushrod Washington, George Steptoe Washington, Samuel Washington, Law-

rence Lewis, and Parke Custis. The last will of Mrs. Martha Washington is not extant, it having been destroyed with other county records during the civil war. Most of her estate was divided among her four grand-children, George Washington Custis, Mrs. Eliza Law, Mrs. Martha Peters, and Mrs. Eleanor (Nellie) Lewis.

Both factions of the war between the North and South, during the four years of the civil war, considered Mt. Vernon as sacred and inviolable from their deeds, and consequently was left undisturbed, the different armies going around it, preferring not to pitch their battles near its peaceful shades.

The character of Mrs. Washington to her intimate acquaintances, and to the Nation, was ever a theme of praise. Affable and courteous, exemplary in her deportment, remarkable for her deeds of charity and piety, unostentious, and without vanity, she adorned by her domestic virtues the sphere of private life, and filled with dignity every station in which she was placed. During the eight years of war, Mrs. Washington while her husband was absent, made the most strenous efforts to sustain her added responsibilities, and to endure with changeless trust in Heaven, the continued anxiety for the safety of her husband and welfare of the country. At the close of each campaign she repaired, in compliance with his wishes, to his headquarters, wherever they were located, and where the ladies of the general officers joined her in forming such a society, as diffused a charming influence over even the gloom of similar winters, as those at Valley Forge and Morristown. At the opening of every summer's campaign, Lady Washington returned to her domestic cares and duties at Mt. Vernon. She said: "I heard the first and last cannon of the Revolutionary War."

Mrs. Washington's son, John Parke Custis, married in 1774 Eleanor Calvert, a daughter of Benedict Calvert, son of Lord Baltimore, and had four children; Eliza, Martha, Eleanor, and George W. Parke. John's widow, soon after his death married Dr. Stewart, near Hope Hill, four miles below Mt. Vernon, and by him she had sixteen children. Of her first children, Elizabeth married Thomas Law, who was secretary to Warren Hastings in India, and who bought a large tract of land and built a number of houses in Washington city. Martha married Thomas Peters, an extensive merchant of Georgetown, D. C. Eleanor married Major Lawrence Lewis, and George W. Parke married Mary Lee Fitzhugh, of Arlington, whose daughter was the wife of Robert E. Lee, of Confederate fame.

Among the different persons to be found about Washington's Headquarters, was Captain Molly Pitcher, who wore an artilleryman's coat, with the cocked hat and feather, the costume of Proctor's artillery. At the battle of Monmouth, her husband received a shot in the head, and fell lifeless under the wheels of a cannon. She grasped the ramrod from his dying hand, and took up his duties, keeping at her post until night closed the scene, after which she was introduced to General Greene and presented to Washington, who made a non-commissioned officer of her in appreciation of the act.

During Washington's Presidency, Mrs. Washington's drawing-rooms, on Friday nights, were attended by the grace and beauty of New York city. On one of these occasions, owing to the lowness of the ceiling, the ostrich feathers in the head-dress of one of the ladies took fire from the chandelier. Major Jackson with great presence of mind, flew to the rescue of the lady, and clapping the burning plume between his hands, put out the flame.

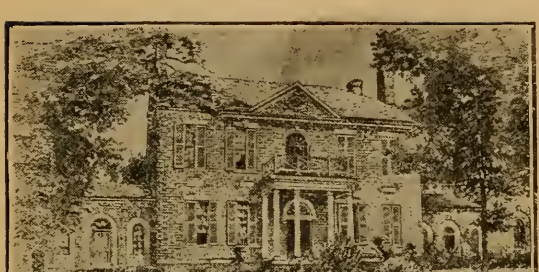
NELLIE CUSTIS AT THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

Eleanor Custis was born at Abingdon, four miles below the city of Washington, May 21, 1778, and was the third child of John Parke Custis, Mrs. Washington's son. She married Major Lawrence Lewis, the son of Washington's sister, Betty; on the 22d of February, 1799, the last birthday the General was alive, and which event caused unusual bustle at Mt. Vernon. General Washington upon his arrival in Alexandria, January 10, 1799, wrote to Mt. Vernon that he had signed the papers becoming the guardian of Nellie, and to authorize a license for her marriage, They were married at "candle light" in the Banquet Hall, which was a blaze of waxen tapers, bringing out in strong relief the silent portraits on the walls, in curious contrast with the merry throng before them. Ten months later the dead body of General Washington was laid in state in the same room, to receive the

homage due to his remains. And fifty-two years after, Nellie's body was brought there and laid in funeral robes in the silence of death, to await burial in the family vault. She died at Audley, Va.

Great preparations had been made for the wedding; the Mansion was decked with flowers and evergreens, and ample provision made for a time of festivity and good cheer. The gentlefolk of the surrounding country were invited, and there was assembled for the occasion representatives of most all of the distinguished familes of the wedding pair. The spirited Virginia reel and the stately minuet, were danced to lively music. It was a brilliant scene, the picturesque costumes of the Colonial days were still worn; there were rich fabrics, and richer colors, stomachers, and short clothing, jeweled buckles, and broaches, powder and muffles everywhere. For years after, in many a home on the Potomac, the folks of whom were at the wedding, delighted to tell of the grand sights and personages of that occasion, and of the stately appearance of General Washington and his wife, as they reviewed the visitors. Also of the charming manners of Nellie and her handsome husband, in his buff, blue and lace; and of his renown upon the staff of General Morgan, (the wagon boy of Occoquan), during the war of the Revolution.

It was the wish of the young bride that General Washington should appear in the splendid uniform given him for the occasion. The idea of him wearing a costume bedizened with gold embroidery, was altogether at variance with his style, and he persisted in wearing his old uniform of blue and buff, which was invariably his military costume; unless to receive his brethren of the Society of the Cincinnati, when he wore the brilliant epaulets given to him by Lafayette; and the diamond



order of the Cincinnati, presented him by the members of the French fleet. The magnificent white plume given to him, he turned over to Nellie.

Woodlawn, the home of Nellie Custis, is three miles west of Mt. Vernon, and was so named from the Lewis home in Fairfax county. It is built on part of the two thousand acres of land which General Washington gave to Nellie and her husband, together with a distillery and mill, as a dower. It is said he planned the building some time before his death, and it was not completely finished until about 1805, although part of it was occupied prior to then. It is substantially built of old-fashioned brick, having a main building sixty by forty feet, with spacious halls and apartments; ample wings united to the main portion by wide corridors, and has twenty-two rooms. Stands upon a high elevation, commanding a pleasant view of the Potomac river and Dogue bay. Of past years Woodlawn had gone to decay, but recently an artist purchased the place and restored it to near its original appearance. Under the roof of Woodlawn, as at Mt. Vernon, was ever dispensed a generous hospitality, and many were the distinguished visitors from near and afar, who came to cross its thresh-

old and pay their respects to its agreeable matron. General Lafayette, on his second visit to America in 1825, came to Woodlawn to renew his fondly cherished acquaintance with Nellie, now a stately housewife, and who was but a child when he had seen her forty years before, in the home of his old Commander, at Mt. Vernon, and had often taken her upon his knee in her sweet laughing moods, and then kissed her with a parential fondness, doubtlessly remembering his own dear ones far away in France. Nellie was no stranger to the faces of titled dignitaries of the old world, for she had seen scores of them, and hundreds of our own celebrites both civil and military, when a child in the time of the first Presidency of Washington. With all the conditions of life and times around her, she was the courteous and agreeable lady, winning the esteem of all who knew her. For nearly forty years Nellie was the mistress of Woodlawn Mansion, and here was born her four children. She died July 15, 1852, in the seventy-fourth year of her age Her husband, Lawrence Lewis, died November 20, 1839, at Arlington, Virginia.

She was often urged to write her memoirs, but never complied. She said that when she was a little girl and wished to attract the attention of the General, she used to seize him by a button, and he would look down upon her with a benignant smile, and her wishes were seldom slighted. No one laughed more heartily than he did, when she would play her tricks and pranks, and that he would retire from the room in which her young companions were amusing themselves, because his presence caused a reserve. When Zachray Taylor was elected to the Presidency, Nellie was for some time an honored guest in the White House, where she received the attention of many high people.

The home of the elder branch of the Calvert family has been for the past 150 years at Mt. Airy, Prince George Co., Md., on the Patuxent river, sixteen miles from Washington, and five miles from upper Marlboro, the county seat. The land upon which Mt. Airy stands was originally purchased by Benedict Calvert, the son of Charles VI, Lord Baltimore, who was at the time of its purchase in 1751, collector of the port of Annapolis. Benedict Calvert married Elizabeth, (daughter of the then Governor Calvert), who was a great heiress and famous beauty. The mansion house is built in the old style of two stories, with several wings. An old fashioned passage, with wide stairs runs through its center. It was built in 1751, of bricks brought from England, and paid for in hogsheads of tobacco. The bricks have mellowed in the clear atmosphere, and the green English ivy has laid its clinging fingers upon the walls, making the old place still beautiful. But more than all else, it abounds in a wealth of hallowed associations.

To Mt. Airy, came in the summer time, many of the most distinguished men and women of the day. General and Mrs. Washington were frequent visitors. The guests came in splendid coaches, with outriders and servants in full livery, and with a great pile of trunks and baggage, these old Maryland homes being always open to friends and visitors. Here also came John Parke Custis, (who afterwards married Eleanor Calvert), then a youth of twenty summers, but so carefully educated and trained that he seemed much older. General Washington in speaking of him at that time, said in a letter to his tutor: "I will allow you an extra sixty dollars for your pains with Parke. I want you to be good to him for he is a most promising lad, the last of his family, and will have a large fortune at

maturity. I wish to make him a useful man." The General also sent a servant and several fine horses, that he might have the necessary exercise.

Eleanor Calvert whom Custis married, was a splendid horsewoman, and used often to go hunting with the young aids of General Washington. A beautiful picture of her in riding habit, with its lovely girlish face, full of intelligence and animation, now hangs in the old house. Eleanor was married in 1774, and in the pictures that we see of Mrs. Washington, she is the beautiful woman who stands upon the right of that lady, and upon a great many of state occasions she was present. Her marriage and that of her sister, took place at Mt. Airy on the same evening, and was the finest affair of its kind that the State of Maryland could boast of. There were many distinguished guests.

Both the Calverts and Custis were descendents of John Parke, who was a member of the English Parliament, and afterwards a soldier in Queen Anne's army in Holland, and was an officer at the great battle of Blenheim, in Germany. Col. Parke brought the joyful news to Queen Anne, of the success of the German arms, and received a minature portrait of her, together with one thousand pounds, and the governorship of Leeward Islands.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary war, Benedict Calvert lost the position of collector of the port of Annapolis, which he had held for a long term, retiring to Mt. Airy, moving thereto his family portraits, silver and household furniture, making that place his permanent residence. On the drawing room walls he had all the Barons of Baltimore, arranged in a line of fine oil portraits. Mt. Airy continued in the family until it reached Eleanor Calvert, who was unmarried, and died in 1902, when it was purchased by Secretary Hay.

Mary Ball, the mother of Washington, was born 1706, at Millenbeck, on the Rappahannock river. She was the daughter of Col. Joseph Ball, by his second wife, widow Johnson, who lived at Epping Forest, of which Mary was called the Belle. She married Augustine Washington, while on a visit, in Lancaster county, March 6, 1731, and they went to Wakefield, in Westmoreland, soon afterwards. They had six children, George, Betty, Samuel, John Augustine, Charles, and Mildred. Her husband died in 1743, leaving her much land and some ready money. She early took to the management of her household affairs, and with kind, but firm judgement, successfully met the many obstacles of those times. Being not very large of stature, she was often spoken of as the "Little Widow Wash-

ington" of Kenmore. Washington owed much of his training to his mother, who was a woman born to command, and since she was left alone with an estate and family to care for, she took the reins in her own hands. She used to drive about in an old-fashioned chaise, visiting the various parts of the farm. Said one of Washington's companion's: "We were all as mute as mice, when in her presence," and common report makes her to have been very much such a woman, as her son afterwards was a man. Her sons, even when they were tall fellows, stood in awe of her, and one of George's comrades said: "he feared her much more than he did his own parents." She was kind, but reserved.

In her last days, she presented a true picture of matronly dignity, and was visited often, by her children and grand-children while in her declining years. She preferred to live by herself, in a house overlooking the river, and her daughter, Betty, earnestly solicited her to pass her remaining days with her, but she objected. Her son requested her to make her home at Mt. Vernon, but she replied: "I thank you for your affectionate and dutiful offer, and as my wants in this world are few, I feel perfectly competent to take care of myself." To Betty's husband's proposition to relieve her, she responded: "Keep my books in order, for your eyesight is better than mine; but leave the executive management to me" Such was the energy she preserved to an age beyond that usually given to mortals, and which lasted to within three years of her death, which was occasioned by cancer.

Washington's meeting with her, after his victory at Yorktown, illustrated her character strikingly. After an absence of seven years, he returned and dismounted in the midst of a brilliant and numerous suite, sending to tell her of his arrival, and to

WASHINGTON'S INTERVIEW WITH HIS MOTHER.

know when it would be her pleasure to receive him. She said anytime! That she was alone, and her hands were employed with domestic duties. She welcomed him with a warm embrace, calling him by a familar name, inquiring as to his health, and remarking upon the lines which cares and trials had made upon his face. She spoke of old times, and old friends, but would make no mention of his many and successful achievements.

Meanwhile, in the village of Fredericksburg, all was joy and revelry. The town was crowded with the French and American armies, and with people from all the country around, who had hastened to welcome the conquerer of Cornwallis. The citizens made arrangements for a splendid ball, to which the mother of Washington, was especially invited. The old lady observed, that although her dancing days were pretty well over, she would feel happy in contributing to the general festivity, and consented to attend. The foreign officers were anxious to see the mother of the Chief. They had

heard indistinct rumors respecting her remarkable life and character, and in their country people of such prominence were expected to have a great show attached to them. They were greatly surprised when plain Mrs. Washington entered the room, leaning upon the arm of her son.

In 1746, occurred an incident in the life of George Washington, worthy of especial notice. And that was when his brother Lawrence secured for him a midshipman's warrant in the British navy, and placed it in his hands, greatly to his delight. He made immediate arrangements to embark upon a man-of-war then anchored in the river. His baggage was on the ship. All that remained for him to do before departing, was to go bid his mother good-bye. She had doubts of the advantage of the project, and looked at the many evils associated with scenes of naval service, and she dwelt upon the thoughts of a separation which would take him forever from his home; and refused her consent. George unmurmuringly acquiesced, and immediately gave up the project; returning to school

When Mary Washington died, August 25, 1789, aged eighty-three years, her body was buried on a spot chosen by herself on the home plantation, Kenmore, near Fredericksburg, upon the Rappahannock river, on a beautiful eminence, overlooking the town in which so much of her life was passed, and within sight of her own house and that of her daughter's, Betty Lewis. The view in every direction from this locality is beautiful and inspiring, and she preferred it as a resting place to the family vault in Westmoreland, where her husband was buried. Over her grave is a white marble monument, the corner stone of which was laid on May 7, 1833, by General Andrew Jackson, when he was President of the United States.

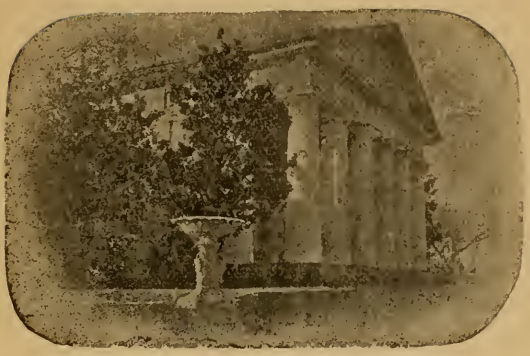
Mary Ball was a lady of uncommon excellence, and was greatly endeared to all who had the happiness of her acquaintance, and was truly estimable in all the relations of life. Among the distinguished traits of her character, none was more remarkable than her constant and generous attentions to the necessities of the poor.

Her habits were very simple in her old days, and it was a difficult matter to get her to make much change in her dress for company. In the Fall of 1784, the Marquis Lafayette previous to his leaving for Europe, being desirous of paying his parting respects to Mrs. Washington, was shown by one of her grand-children up to her house, with the remark: "There, sir, is my grandmother." He was introduced to an old lady in homespun, wearing a broad straw hat, gathering up chips in the garden. "Ah, Marquis," said Mrs. Washington, "You see an old woman; but come in, I can make you welcome to my dwelling without the parade of changing my dress " When Lafayette talked to her about her son's greatness, she merely said: "I am not much surprised at what George has done; he was always a good boy."

Washington's sister, Betty, was a most majestic woman, and so strikingly like her brother, that it was a matter of frolic to throw a cloak around her, and place a military hat upon her head, and such was the perfect resemblance, that had she ridden on her brother's steed, battalions would have presented arms, and senates risen to do homage to the chief. Her son, Lawrence Lewis, was so much the counterpart of General Washington, that it was difficult for some people with but slight familiarity with them to tell one from the other. Many jokes were played by this pair, of which the General was fond of telling in after years. One time

near the redoubts at Yorktown, the enemy mistook Lewis for the General, and made a report that Washington was near at hand; so they laid in wait. It developed to their sorrow, shortly afterwards, that the Commander-in-chief of the Army was at an altogether different point. At a ball given in New York city, the same thing occurred with some ladies, who thought they had been dancing with the General, and it was Lawrence Lewis who was pleasantly deceiving them for the evening.

On June 28, 1778, at the battle of Monmouth, as Washington, accompanied by a numerous suite, approached the court house, he was met by a little fifer-boy who archly observed, "They are all coming this way, your honor." Who are coming, my little man, asked General Knox? "Why, our boys, your honor, and the British right after them," replied the little musician. "Impossible," exclaimed Washington! And spuring his horse, proceeded at full gallop to an eminence ahead. There to his pain and mortification, it was discovered that the boy's intelligence was but too true. The very elite of the American army, five thousand picked officers and men, were in full retreat, closely pursued by the enemy. The first inquiry of the chief was for Major General Lee, who first commanded the advance, and who soon appeared. After a warm conversation, he was ordered to the rear. Washington now set himself in earnest about resting the fortunes of the day, and proceeded to form his troops again, with such vigor that the white horse he rode on, sank under its rider and expired. He next mounted a chestnut blooded mare, and upon this charger he flew along the line of his army, cheering to his soldiers. His presence stopped the retreat, and his disposition of troops, fixed the victory of one of the greatest battles of the Revolution.



ARLINGTON, BUILT BY G. W. PARKE CUSTIS.

About three miles directly west of the U. S. Capitol building, and situated under the brow of a high hill, can be seen from the center of Washington city, Arlington, the home of George Washington Parke Custis, who upon the death of Mrs. Washington at Mt. Vernon in 1802, moved to his new home, which he planned and built. He was the son of John Parke Custis, and was born at Mt. Airy, April 30, 1781, and married Mary Fitzhugh in 1802. Their only child, a daughter, married Col, Robert E. Lee in 1831, in the drawing room of the mansion. Mr. Custis inherited the land from his father, who purchased it of Gerard Alexander in 1745. Upon the death of Mr. Custis, October 10, 1857, this estate consisting of 1160 acres became the property of General Lee. Custis enjoyed the distinction of being the adopted son of General Washington and drew to Arlington annually a host of visitors and friends. General Lafayette upon his second visit to this country was a distinguished guest at Arlington House, and pronounced the view from the portico, one of the most beautiful he

had ever looked upon. The rooms of the mansion were stored with a rich collection of memorials and valuable articles, brought from Mt. Vernon. Some of these are now in the National Museum, and the others found their way to various places.

On April 22, 1861, when the Civil war came on, Colonel Lee resigned from the U. S. Army and moved his family and belongings to Richmond, Va., there to take command of the Confederate army. Arlington remained unoccupied until 1863, when it was sold under the confiscation act for $92 and became the property of the U. S. Government, which set apart 200 acres for a National Cemetery. In 1877 the Lee heirs established their rights to the property, their claim was adjusted, and they were paid $150,000. A portrait of Nellie Custis, painted by Gilbert Stuart, was for about fifty years the most attractive picture among the paintings at Arlington, and is now in the possession of Prof. W. F. Lee, of Lexington University, Va.

When General Washington adopted the Custis children, he had a private tutor of collegiate training, named Tobias Lear, who afterwards became his private and military secretary, provided for them, and under the exemplary care of their distinguished guardians, their young minds were developed for the practical duties of life. Custis finished a classical education at Princeton, and was distinguished by an original genius for eloquence, poetry, and the fine arts; also of the history of this country, which he did much to forward. By Washington will, he gives to G. W. Parke Custis a tract of land near four-mile-run, containing twelve hundred acres, and a square in Washington city.

During General Lafayette's visit to Mt. Vernon in 1824, he told Parke Custis that "on that same portico they were first introduced," and "that he

was then holding on by a single finger of General Washington's hand, which was about all he could do." Parke Custis in his memoirs tells us many interesting things about General Washington, among them a description of the cocked hat the General wore in the Indian wars, which had been pierced by two bullets, and which during the war for Independence he also wore continuously, with the addition of a black cockade which was given him by a little boy on a shaggy pony, named Simon Crosby, at the beginning of the Revolution. This cocked hat, and the sword which Washington carried during the entire war, upon the night of his death at Mt. Vernon, disappeared, and were not found until President Jackson's time, when they were returned by a relative of General Greene. Both hat and sword are now in the U. S. State Department Library, at Washington, D. C.

Washington resigned his commission in 1783, in the court house at Annapolis, Md. The first settlers of Maryland were Lord Baltimore, (Leonard Calvert) who came to this country in two ships, the Dove and the Ark, in 1632, accompanied by between two and three hundred gentlemen, their wives and families, and came up the Potomac to Piscataway Creek, a short distance below Alexandria. The country was then thickly inhabited by Indians, and Calvert being afraid, went back down the Potomac to the Chesepeake bay, and settled on St. George's Island, called St. Mary's. In 1642 the Puritans came over, sailed up the Bay, and settled Annapolis. The celebrated Captain John Smith in 1680, made his famous voyage to the Patapsco River, records of which are at Annapolis.

In 1789 when General Washington was on his way from Mt. Vernon to New York to take the oath of office as President, he stopped by Annapolis,

where he was met by Generals Gates and Smallwood, who attended him to Mr. Mann's hotel where apartments had been prepared for his reception. The old hotel is still standing and Room 9, which he occupied is in one of the wings; some of the furniture which it contained is still preserved. The first theater in America was in a room in this hotel. In 1750 a theater building was erected and called the Colonial, at which Washington often attended. He liked Annapolis, and considered it next to Alexandria as one of his homes. He would cross the Potomac river from Mt. Vernon by way of Marshall Hall, from where he would go to the Chesapeake bay, where he had a fine vessel of his own manned with a uniformed crew, waiting for him, in which he would sail to Annapolis. The reigning belle of his boat was his grand-daughter, Nellie Custis, who wore a female sailor costume, and with a company of joyous young people would make the surroundings abound in mirth and merriment, which much pleased General Washington. When Lafayette visited Annapolis he was most sumptuously received, the town turned out in full force, held a grand ball, and illuminated the place.

The first inauguration of Washington deserved some notice, inasmuch, as in its chief outlines it has served for the precedent to all succeeding ones. Congress in New York had determined it should take place in the open air, which it did on April 30, 1789. At twelve o'clock the procession was formed at the residence of the President in Grand street, consisting of a military escort, Congressmen and heads of Departments, followed by Washington, riding alone in his carriage, Colonel Humphreys and Secretary Lear coming after. The procession moved to the halls of Congress, where Chancellor Livingston administered the oath on the balcony.

CHRIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

Christ Church, Alexandria, Va., was built in 1767, and finished in 1773. Among its first vestrymen was George Washington, then thirty-three years of age, who subscribed the highest price paid for a pew, $185, at an annual rent of $25. Here he frequently mingled during religious service with his neighbors and friends. His pew is on the left side near the front, and is marked with his autograph on a silver plate. Across the aisle is the pew of the Lee family. In the vestry room are the records of the old church, including Washington's purchase of his pew in 1773, and the first church-service; also a bible printed in Edinburgh in 1767, and a long handled purse used in Washington's time for offerings. The church has long, narrow windows, an old pulpit of years ago, and is still used to hold divine service in. The old pews, which originally were square, were changed to the modern kind in 1860, except that of Washington's. The church still retains the style of the old Colonial days, the

chancel rail and mural tablets are the same as of those times, also the communion table, reading desk and chairs. In the center of the church is a crystal chandelier of solid brass with twelve candlesticks, representing the twelve apostles. In the yard surrounding the church are a number of old and well-preserved tombstones, containing the names of many of the first families of Virginia.

In Washington's time, there were few towns in Virginia, and the country was marked off in parishes, after the old English custom. When a man became of any importance in his neighborhood, he was made a vestryman in the parish. Mt. Vernon was in Truro parish, and Washington was a vestryman, as well as of Fairfax parish. The first church built about 1732, had fallen into decay, and it being necessary to build another, a meeting was called. One faction proposed to rebuild at the same place, while the other urged a locality more convenient to the parishoners. A final meeting was held to settle the matter, when one of Washington's near neighbors, George Mason, a man of fine speech, arose, and spoke most eloquently in favor of holding to the old site, as there their fathers had worshipped, and their bodies were laid to rest. Every one seemed satisfied with Mason's proposal, when Washington who had also come with a plea, arose.

He had not Mason's power of speech, but he had a roll of paper which he spread before the meeting, upon which he had drawn off a plan of his parish, the site of the old church, and the place where every parishoner lived. He said very little, showing the people his survey, and telling them of the advantages of the new site as being the most central, and that a church first of all should be for the living. His argument carried the day against the eloquent speech of Mason, and on the new site was

built Pohick Church in 1772, from Washington's own plans. He was made a vestryman and was a frequent attendant at its services. The church is six miles below Mt. Vernon, and is still standing.

Near Charlestown, W. Va., (the land of which was owned by Washington, he having laid out the town and named it after his youngest and favorite brother, Charles), is another worshipping place of long ago, the four walls of which are still standing, and which was in its day the fashionable meeting place of "Northern Neck." Here Lord Thomas Fairfax, and such gentry as could be gathered together, held their communions. Washington was a vestryman there also, and made many valuable presents to the parish. Lord Fairfax died in 1781, at the age of eighty-three, and was buried in the Episcopal churchyard in Winchester, Va.

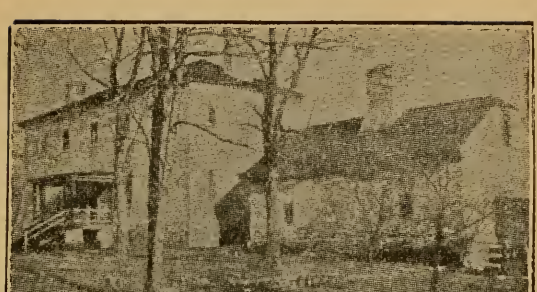
Four-mile-run is situated south of the Capitol that distance, and is where Washington owned several hundred acres of land, upon which he had mills, and shipped cargoes of flour to the West Indies in the earlier Colonial times. Near here is Abingdon, where the Custis family lived, also the old Wellington house, built by William Clifton in 1750, which was occupied by Col. Tobias Lear, Washington's secretary, free of rent while he lived. Lear died in 1816, and the old house which is still standing, was occupied by two generations of the Washington family until about 1850.

Seven miles below Washington city, is Alexandria, which was founded in 1748, by Lord Thomas Fairfax, Lawrence Washington and others, by authority of the General Assembly of Virginia. Fifty years before that time, not a single white man had residence there, and six thousand acres were purchased in 1699, by Captain Robert Howson, under a royal patent granted him for bring-

ing over a certain number of emigrants. The old town's historic associations abound in interesting events of the earlier Colonial times, and no locality in the thirteen original States was more intimately connected with the beginning of American Independence. Here it was that George Washington, first stepped forth amid the plaudits of a crowd, and gave fifty pounds towards the support of the new cause of Freedom and self government.

Here in the spring of 1755, met the Colonial Governors of Virginia, to arrange plans for the prosecution of the then French and Indian war on the Ohio river. In Alexandria there is still standing the engine house of the old Friendship Fire Company, organized in 1774, of which Washington was a member, also the City Hall, from the steps of which he gave his last military command in 1799, and where on the 22d of February, was first celebrated the "Birth-Night Ball," given in his honor. Here is also the Masonic Lodge room in which he presided, as also the Carlyle House built in 1752, and which was the headquarters of General Braddock, and where Washington received his first commission The remnants of the old Marshall house are still standing, where Colonel Ellsworth was killed for tearing down the Confederate flag. The mansion where General Lafayette was entertained while on his visit to this country, is well preserved, and this great event called out the old town to do its utmost to pay homage to one they all revered.

Before the final establishment of the seat of government on the Potomac river, liberal offers of land and money were made by several cities, but the desire of General Washington to have the National Capital located where it is, took the favorite lead and was acquiesced to. The District of Columbia was authorised in 1790; surveyed in 1796.



Harewood House, three miles north of Charlestown, W. Va., is the oldest and most notable of all the Washington mansions, and is built upon the first parcel of land that Washington took up for himself, when he began to survey that section for Lord Fairfax in 1747. The house was built by Saml [redacted] Washington, out of limestone from a fine quarry near by, and intended for his home, but his brother Lawrence dying and leaving him by his will, Mt. Vernon, he sold this place to his other brother Samuel in 1756, who was a man of the world and had married five times, having seven sons, some of whom are buried in the graveyard nearby. Samuel died in 1781, and General Washington became guardian of his young children. George Steptoe Washington, and Lawrence Augustine Washington, and, also of Ferdinand, a son by another wife. At the age of seventeen, George Steptoe Washington married Lucy Payne, the fifteen year old sister of Dolly Madison, who was called the beauty of the White House. At a Mrs. Lee's house in Philadelphia in 1794, the celebrated Aaron Burr introduced Mr. James Madison to the charming little widow, Dolly Payne Todd, her husband hav-

ing died a short time before, in 1793, from an epidemic fever. Madison openly declared himself a suitor for her hand, and Mrs. General Washington sent for Dolly to know if it were true. She said yes; and allowed her betrothal to be formally proclaimed, and arrangements were made for the wedding which took place September 15, 1794, in Harewood House and was attended by General and Mrs. Washington. It then took the widow Todd six days to make the journey in Thomas Jefferson's coach from Philadelphia, accompanied by her little boy, Payne Todd, and her sister Anne, a child of twelve years. General Lee, "Light Horse Harry," attended the wedding upon the finest horse in all Virginia. John Randolph and Dolly Payne went to school together when children at Hanover, Va. After Madison's marriage he went to Montpelier, near Richmond, Va., where he remained until he became President of the United States.

In Harewood House, Louis Philippe, afterwards King of France, spent nearly a year, together with his two brothers, the Duke de Montpensier and the Count de Beaujolias, and the servant Boudouin, during their exile from their native land. Lafayette was entertained there, as was also his son and a tutor, M. Frestel. The Mansion is about 100 feet long and 30 feet wide. Heavy oaken panels cover the interior walls, and the clumsy iron hooks of 150 years ago mark the place where great tapestries and paintings have hung. The stairway is a solid piece of joiner work, on the landing of which stood a tall ancient clock, exactly where it chimed the hour when Dolly Madison and her statesman lover were married, and before they were called to Washington, him twice as President, and she to reign eight years mistress of the White House. Harewood contains one of the famous mantels sent from

France by Lafayette to Washington as a present. The other mantel is at Mt. Vernon. In transit the top slab of this one was broken, so some clever artificer was employed to make one like it of wood, which was painted a mottled black to imitate the marble and put in place, and is about as solid as the stone below. One mile below Harewood is St. George's chapel, built in 1747, and to which the Washington family came to worship, also George, who was a constant attendant during the years when he was a young man and lived in the valley of the Shenandoah. There were a number of fine houses built in this section by different members of the Washington family, among them being, Happy Retreat, Claymont, Blakely House, Megwille Place, and Cedar Lawn. Among the distinguished military men of this region, were five generals of the Continental army; Horatio Gates, Charles Lee, William Darke, Adam Stephen, and Robert Buckles, besides other ones less noted.

During the war of 1812, in President Madison's time, when the British burned the Capital, there was a life-size portrait of General Washington secured to the wall of the dining room in the White House, and Parke Custis came over from Arlington to see to its preservation. In the meantime, others became fearful for its safety, and John Sousa the doorkeeper, and Magraw the gardener, broke the frame with an axe, loosening the picture, and it was hid in Georgetown by Paul Jennings, a colored man. During this siege Madison was in Philadelphia, and Dolly was compelled to flee across the Potomac river into Virginia, where a few miles above Georgetown, she took refuge in the house of Mrs. Love. The British pursuing her party closely, she escaped through a back door, to a Mrs. Miners, further on, who hid her in a closet

until Mr. Madison could be communicated with in Philadelphia. It took eighteen months to restore the White House, during which time President Madison occupied the Octagon House, situated around the corner, the ground for which General Washington laid off. His architect Dr. William Thornton planned and built it. Col. John Taylor was its first owner, and here the famous council of Ghent was then signed. Dolly's sister Lucy Payne, the wife of George Steptoe Washington, became a widow in 1812, and soon after married Judge Todd of the Supreme Court of the United States.

General Washington had an aunt on his mother's side, Esther Ball Chinn, who lived in Middleburg, Va., and whose husband's family came from a very old lineage in England, near the Washington home in Northumberland. They had many noted family connections, among whom were the Harrisons, Custis, Lees and others. Washington made his home there a good deal of his time, and five miles below at Aldie, is the first house he planned and built, also the first road he surveyed and filled up the bed of, called Braddock road. Near Charlestown is located Braddock well, which was dug and given to General Braddock by George Washington during the Indian wars, he fearing they would poison the water in the river. Washington had a great reverence for this old place and its people and he paid them a visit in 1796, the last time he was in that section of the country while alive.

In the Shenandoah valley, thirteen miles from Winchester, Lord Thomas Fairfax built his celebrated Greenway Court, not far from the village of Millwood, and here he passed over a quarter of a century, surrounded by trappers, Indians, dogs and horses. He owned the surrounding country, and was a real hospitable old fox-hunting baron.

RECENT DISCOVERIES.

Mrs. Washington's minature spoken of on Page 26, which for a long while has been an object of diligent search by the author of this book, was recently brought to light through a casual remark made to one of the Calvert descendants, upon their preparation for a dress ball to be given on Washington's Birthday. This more than precious article of jewelry is well preserved in a safe place of keeping, and is the property of a well known society lady of Washington city.

The last will and testament of Martha Washington which was supposed to have been destroyed by fire many years ago, of which mention is made on Page 27, has recently been found. During the war of 1861, while some soldiers were burning up a lot of papers at Fairfax Court House, Va., one of them came up and noticing the name of Washington upon the outside of one of the burning packages, caught it up, knocked the fire out of it, and afterwards found it was Mrs. Washington's will. He took it home, keeping it hidden all these years until recently, when he told about it at the U. S. Capitol Library. ———

From the 'Washington Star' of April 27, 1906.—"Mr. Joseph I Keefer of Washington city, recently received a letter from Missouri, asking him to help to find a book which belonged to General Washington and which was lost during the Civil war. The book is a volume of Shakespeare, and on one of the pages is written the name of George Washington, also comments and marks placed there by him in 1796. At the time the book was lost, part of the library of General Washington was at the home of Col. John Washington, in Charlestown,

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W. Va., and during the Civil war while the Eighth Illinois Cavalry was on a scout in that region some of the soldiers carried off this valuable Shakespeare. Another book belonging to General Washington, and bearing the signature of General Lafayette, which was taken from the same place, has recently been restored."

Martha Washington's bible, which until recently was supposed to have been lost, has lately been ~~presented~~ returned to Miss Mary Custis Lee, a daughter of General Robert E. Lee, by a Philadelphia gentleman who purchased it from a wanderer some time ago. The book was taken from Arlington during the Civil war by either the servants or soldiers, and in spite of its strange experience is in fine condition having been kept with great care, and its black leather cover shows few scratches. Some pages are torn, but the ink is still unfaded, and many leaves and flowers, pressed by members of the Lee family are yet within it. The book was printed in London in 1702 by "Charles Bill and the executrix of Thomas Newcomb, deceased, who were printers to the King's most excellent majesty." The earliest birth recorded in it, is that of Fanny Parke Custis, in 1710; that of her brother, Daniel Parke Custis, being given as 1711. The marriage of Daniel Parke Custis to Martha Dandridge, afterward Martha Washington, is recorded as having taking place in 1750, she being then only seventeen years old.

The Book contains the old "Order for Morning Prayer Throughout the Year," including the communion service, the articles of religion, the Old and New Testaments, with the apocrypha, the metrical version of the Psalms, and the table of kindred affinity; all printed in clear, large type.

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